

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 2, on page 31, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

Based on the construct described above, the final construct for protein D expression was generated. A BamHI/BamHI fragment was removed from pMGNS1PrD. This DNA hydrolysis removes the NS1 coding region, except for the first three N-terminal residues. Upon religation of the vector a gene encoding a fusion protein with the following N-terminal amino acid sequence has been generated:

-----MDP SSHSSNMANT----- (SEQ ID NO:1)

NS1

Protein D